



## Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

**Notice to the Public on remote meetings:** In the interests of preventing abuse of video-conferencing, all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-chairs Grossman and Bauer, Commissioners Minton, Rogers, Haynes, Pusey, Soneja, Brown, Carney, DiMeo, Horowitz, Baron

Intern: Noah Sweder

Guests: Jillian Harvey-DEI Coordinator, Christopher Ellinger-True Story Theater

### Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00pm by Co-chair Grossman

1. Co-chair Report
  - a. Co-Chair Grossman reviewed the online meeting requirements and procedures. The co-chairs reviewed the need for a Commission statement in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Co-Chair Bauer thanked Noah for his help with taking notes and appealed for someone to consider taking on the role of Secretary.
2. Review of Minutes
  - a. Motion Co-chair Bauer moved to approve February minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Pusey and approved by all except Commissioners Baron and DiMeo who abstained because they had been absent.
3. Review of Community Input

- a. Christopher Ellinger, representative of True Story Theater representative, proposed doing a zoom bystander intervention workshop for the AHRC and doing a performance that the AHRC would co-sponsor. Commissioner DiMeo proposed a motion to approve adjustment of our \$300 investment. This was seconded by Commissioner Soneja and unanimously approved.
- 4. Review of Police Presence Guidelines
  - a. Commissioner Baron moved to table this discussion until next meeting, Commissioner DiMeo seconded and it was unanimously approved.
- 5. Review of Working Groups
  - a. Outreach: Emails 'Connecting with the Arlington Human Rights Commission' sent to the religious community 4/16. Other emails will follow.
  - b. Communications: Reviewing how to maximize use of social media (identifying titles, boosting visibility, holidays/ days of note, etc.). Please use Melanie.ahrc@gmail.com for submission of materials.
  - c. Schools: Working Group on hold until schools get back in session.
  - d. Events: Events postponed/ cancelled (Porchfest, Stand up against racism month)
    - i. Possible events during COVID: virtual spring into reading event, virtual round table discussing human rights implications surrounding COVID-19
  - e. By-Laws: No further report, no meeting was held during this past month.
- 6. Other Reports
  - a. Budget
    - i. Motion to pay outstanding BHM debt from general fund - Commissioner Carney. Commissioner Carney will submit purchase orders for outstanding BHM debt from the general fund.
    - ii. Commissioner Brown moved to reach out to the Rainbow Commission to see if they wanted to work with the AHRC to create banners to be put up in the town for Pride month (June). Seconded by Commissioner Pusey and unanimously approved
- 7. Discussion of Criteria and Topics for Public Statements
  - a. Criteria for public statements discussed and Co-chair Grossman volunteered to sort together guiding principles and send to the Communications Working Group. Some factors are: involving a human rights issue, is related to Arlington, and the AHRC's voice would help.
  - b. Commissioner Soneja outlined why statement on the current situation in India is warranted. He notes there has been violence particularly targeting the Muslim community over the last 10 months, statements condemning situation have been issued by other towns in the US, and the situation is impacting residents of Arlington.
  - c. Commissioner DiMeo moved for Commissioner Soneja to lead a group that will compose a statement condemning the recent human rights violations committed by the Indian government. The statement will either be sent to Co-chairs to ensure it is in the spirit of HRC's discussion and then published, or be brought back to the AHRC. Commissioner Soneja seconded and it was unanimously approved
- 8. Brainstorm about Future Needs

- a. Discussion of the need for an AHRC COVID statement: while there are many emails and statements being released, it is important to simply let our community know that the AHRC is here still taking and fielding complaints. Co-chair Bauer moved for a small group to gather and draft a statement about the COVID-19 crisis. It would then be sent to Co-chairs to ensure it is in spirit of discussion, and if so, then published. Seconded by Commissioner Pusey and unanimously approved.
  - 1. Incidents
    - a. Recent incidents reported to commission.
  - 2. Community Input
    - a. None.
  - 3. Announcements
    - a. Next meeting changed from Thursday May 21, to Wednesday May 20.

Commissioner Baron moved to adjourn at 10:02. Seconded by Co-chair Grossman and unanimously approved.

Next meeting: May 20, 2020, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.